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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/688,463	10/16/2000	Gotthard Schmid	A-2570	1413

7590

03/17/2003

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EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/688,463

Applicant(s)

SCHMID, GOTTHARD

Examiner

Ren L Yan

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

The request for reconsideration filed on 2-27-2003 has been received and considered. Upon reconsideration, the finality of the previous Office Action dated 11-21-2002 is hereby withdrawn and a new Office Action follows:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Schmid et al(6,101,944)). The patent to Schmid et al teaches the detailed structure of a sheet printing machine as claimed including a first printing unit 2 having a common impression cylinder 14 and at least four printing devices 6, 8, 10, 12 assigned thereto, and a second printing unit 4 selectively coupled with the first printing unit for in-line printing operation by a coupling element 78. The first printing unit 2 has a sheet feeder 28 and the second printing unit 4 has a sheet delivery at 32. The second printing unit is provided with a zoneless ink metering device 60 for transferring ink during printing. With respect to claims 5 and 8, the rubber blanket cylinders 56 in the second printing unit 4 of Schmid et al satisfies the requirement. Regarding claim 6, the second printing unit 4 of Schmid et al shows the use of a printing form cylinder 58.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmid et al in view of Kolbe et al(6,016,748). Schmid et al does not show the use of a chamber type doctor blade engaged with a screen roller. Chamber doctor blade coupled with a screen roller for transferring ink is well known and widely used in printing art. Kolbe et al in Figs. 1-3 show such a well known inking device having a chamber type doctor blade device 14 coupled with a screen roller 10 for metering and transferring ink . It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the ink device of Schmid et al with a chamber doctor blade and a screen roller in order to achieve the desired ink quantity transfer outcome.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmid et al in view of Hofmann et al(5,503,674). Schmid et al may not show the detailed structure of the inking unit. Hofmann et al teach in a rotary printing press the conventionality of using a trough 10, a dip roller 20 and a metering roller 2 for transferring vanishing fluid to the printing cylinders. See Fig. 3 in Hofmann et al for example. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the inking units of Schmid et al with the trough, the dip roller and the metering roller appropriately disposed as taught by Hofmann et al in order to ensure a proper amount of inking fluid being transferred to the printing cylinders.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmid et al. The present disclosure stated that various types of printing form cylinder can be used for the applicator cylinder of the second printing unit. Since the recited flexographic printing cylinders are well

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known in the printing art and due to the lack of disclosure showing any criticality, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to equip the printing form cylinder in the second printing unit of Schmid et al with a flexographic printing form based upon the desired printing outcome.

Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schmid et al in view of Rodi(5,115,741). Schmid et al does not show the use of a dryer for drying the printed sheets. Rodi teaches in a multicolor printing machine the conventionality of using a dryer as illustrated by connecting tubes 16 and 17 after each printing unit 3-6 for drying printed sheets and suggested to use a UV excimer laser as the dryer for ensuring optimum drying of the printed product. See Figs. 1-3 and the paragraph bridging columns 6 and 7 in Rodi for example. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the sheet printing machine of Schmid et al with a UV excimer laser dryer to dry the printed sheets before the sheets being stacked so as to prevent smearing of the printed images.

Claim 9 is allowed.

Applicant's amendment filed on 7-8-2002 and 7-15-2002 necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

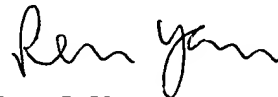
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will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 703-308-0978. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on 703-305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854

Ren Yan
March 11, 2003